U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y

AUG 2 2 2011

**BROOKLYN OFFICE** 

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Nivedita Kumar,

Plaintiff,

v.

Associated Credit Services, Inc.; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

CV111-4077

COMPLAINT

MAUSKOPF, J.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Nivedita Kumar, by undersigned counsel, states as

follows:

SUMMONS ISSUED

### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of the Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of the Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
  - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

- The Plaintiff, Nivedita Kumar ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Kew 4. Gardens, New York, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
  - 5. Defendant Associated Credit Services, Inc. ("Associated"), is a Massachusetts

business entity with an address of 115 Flanders Road, Suite 140, P.O. Box 5171, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Associated and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
  - 7. Associated at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

#### A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation in the approximate amount of \$3,000.00 (the "Debt") to TD Bank (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Associated for collection, or Associated was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

#### B. Associated Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. Within the last year, Defendants have placed multiple calls to Plaintiff's cellular and residential phone lines concerning her account with TD Bank.
  - 13. Defendants failed to fully disclose the name of the debt collection entity to

Plaintiff.

- 14. Plaintiff informed Defendants that she had no means to pay the Debt at the moment and requested that Defendants cease calls.
  - 15. However, Defendants continued to call Plaintiff.
- 16. Defendants threatened Plaintiff:"You don't know who you are fighting with. Do you know how big TD Bank is?"
- 17. Moreover, Defendants threatened to file a lawsuit against Plaintiff, if she failed to pay the Debt. To date, no such lawsuit has been filed.
- 18. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff of her rights under the state and federal laws by written correspondence within 5 days after the initial communication, including the right to dispute the Debt.

### C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

## <u>COUNT I</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA - 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 21. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in

connection with the collection of a debt.

- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(6) in that Defendants placed calls to the Plaintiff without disclosing the identity of the debt collection agency.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) in that Defendants threatened to take legal action, without actually intending to do so.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the amount of the Debt.
- 27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the name of the original creditor to whom the Debt was owed.
- 28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to dispute the Debt within thirty days.
- 29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice informing the Plaintiff of a right to have verification and judgment mailed to the Plaintiff.
- 30. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to request the name and address of the original creditor.
  - 31. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and

multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

32. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

# COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF NEW YORK GBL § 349 ENGAGING IN UNLAWFUL DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ACTS

- 33. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.
- 34. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants and complained of herein constitute "deceptive acts and practices" within the meaning of Article 22A of the General Business Law of the State of New York, NY GBL § 349.
- 35. The Defendants willfully and knowingly engaged in conduct constituting deceptive acts and practices in violation of NY GBL§ 349.
- 36. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the foregoing acts and practices, including damages associated with, among other things, humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment caused by the Defendants.
- 37. By virtue of the foregoing, the Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages, trebled, together with reasonable attorneys' fees.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be awarded in the Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendants as follows:

1. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);

- 2. Against each of the named the Defendants, awarding the Plaintiff statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- 3. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages, trebled, pursuant to NY GBL § 349;
- 4. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff recovery of the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
- 5. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff punitive damages in such amount as is found appropriate; and
  - 6. Granting the Plaintiff such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

#### TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: August 18, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By

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